



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 3, 2003

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD,  
MICHAEL KULSTAD  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600

**COMPANY PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT TO ILLEGAL  
ASBESTOS REMOVAL FROM THREE MANHATTAN BUILDINGS**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that NATIONAL ABATEMENT CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation that was formerly in the business of removing asbestos from buildings throughout New York City, pled guilty and was sentenced yesterday in Manhattan federal court in connection with its illegal removal of asbestos from three buildings in Manhattan between January 1998 and January 2001. The buildings at which the illegal asbestos removals took place are located at 280 Park Avenue, 219 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, and 111 East 48<sup>th</sup> Street, in Manhattan.

According to the Information, NATIONAL ABATEMENT CORPORATION caused asbestos, a hazardous air pollutant, to be removed from work-sites within the three buildings in violation of work practice standards issued by the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). These work practice standards apply to building renovations involving at least 160 square feet of asbestos-

containing material, or 260 linear feet of asbestos on pipes, and require compliance with well-defined directives for handling asbestos in order to protect its handlers and the public.

In its guilty plea, NATIONAL ABATEMENT CORPORATION admitted that in January 1998, at 280 Park Avenue and 219 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in Manhattan, and in January 2001, at 111 East 48<sup>th</sup> Street, in Manhattan, NATIONAL ABATEMENT CORPORATION caused asbestos material to be stripped without adequately wetting it, failed to carefully lower asbestos material to the floor without dropping or otherwise damaging it, and did not keep asbestos material that had been removed wet until it was collected and contained.

United States District Judge JOHN E. SPRIZZO accepted the corporation's guilty plea, and imposed a \$75,000 fine and a \$1,200 special assessment. In addition, pursuant to the terms of the plea agreement under which the corporation pled guilty, NATIONAL ABATEMENT CORPORATION is barred from the demolition and asbestos removal businesses for a period of five years.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the FBI and the EPA's Criminal Investigations Division in the investigation of this case. He also praised the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's Asbestos Control Program for its work in connection with the illegal asbestos removals.

Assistant United States Attorney ERIKA K. THOMAS is in charge of the prosecution.

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